

Hello Everyone,

“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” Soren Kierkegaard, Danish Philosopher & Theologian

“What is truth?” Pontius Pilate, Roman Prefect of Judaea 26-36 CE

As you can see, I am feeling a bit philosophical this morning. Most things go better when they spring from a foundation of truth...relationships, work, politics, and yes, investing. Finding that truth (especially in an election year) is becoming increasingly difficult...but it's there!

I hope you find today's missive thought provoking. It identifies a repeating 80-year pattern that seems unique to America...and could be very positive for your investments. I'll let you ponder the “why” of the pattern. :->

Signed, Your Has-The-Feeling-American-Politics-Is-Going-To-Go-Off-The-Charts-Crazy-Between-Now-And-November Financial Advisor,

Greg

KKOB 02.03.2020 America's 80-Year Pattern

Bob: So, Greg, in the first month of 2020---- if there has been a theme for our reports---- it's been predictions. But our conclusion has been there are too many variables for anyone to predict the markets accurately.

Greg: Right. Still, investing, by its nature, requires some anticipation of future events. So, rather than focus on predictions, let's look for patterns. So, today let's look an 80-year pattern that seems unique to America. And then let your listeners decide if they believe it will affect their investments.

So, Bob, 80 years ago, it was 1940. What was special about that year?

Bob: Well, the Nazis were on the march in Europe. The Japanese were continuing their conquest of Asia. And America was still on the sidelines wondering if the Great Depression would ever end.

Greg: Great summation. And, Bob, we all know what happened over the next five years. Millions would be killed; America would win sweeping victories across Europe and Asia. The old order would melt away--- and be replaced by American dominance. And, the dollar would replace the British pound as the world's supreme currency.

So, now, let's go back another 80 years from 1940. That puts us at 1860. Bob, what's going on in America?

Bob: Well, the Civil War won't start officially until 1861. But in 1860 tensions were already boiling over. Congress was divided. In fact, the whole nation was divided. And now we know there was no hope of reconciliation. War was inevitable.

Greg: Right. And over the next five years, 700,000 young men would die...and millions more would be maimed and wounded. The nation would never be the same.

In the aftermath, the Federal government would grow. States' rights would recede. The Confederate dollar of course went to zero and President Lincoln called in all the Union's silver certificates and reissued new money. Tens of thousands were bankrupted.

Now, let's go back another 80 years from 1860. The year is 1780. Bob, what is happening in America?

Bob: Well, let's see. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, but in 1780 we were still at war with the British.

Greg: Right. It wasn't until 1781 that Washington won at Yorktown ---and accepted British General Cornwallis' surrender. America was finally free, but the economy was in shambles. General Washington lamented, "*A cartload of continentals (our money at the time) won't buy a cartload of provisions.*" Still, a great nation was being born.

Oh, and if you go back another two 80-year periods, you get to 1620. That's the year the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. The Mayflower Compact, which dedicated the land to God, was signed. One year after that, in 1621, we had the first Thanksgiving---- and a peace treaty was signed with the local native Americans that would last 50 years

Bob: So, I think I see the pattern. In 1940, America was on the doorstep of change. In 1860, the same...the Civil War was unavoidable. In 1780 we were on the doorstep of victory over the British. And even in 1620, the Pilgrims---who were on the brink of starvation in 1620, were on the doorstep of permanent settlement & peace in 1621.

So, it seems you're saying America has an 80-year pattern that may have begun 400 years ago. And years that begin with zero are **doorstep years**. The year after the doorstep then ushers in great change---both good and bad.

Greg: Right. Every 80 years we seem destined to go through some trial. And so far, we have come out the other side better---stronger. And, who knows, maybe this 80-year pattern is just a coincidence. Still, you have to wonder.

Anyway, with that said, I can't tell you how many people have come to my office and said things like, *"I just feel like we're on the brink of something. What do you think it is? And, how do you think I should invest to take care of myself and my family?"*

Bob: So, if the pattern held, 2020 would be our doorstep year. That means people still have time to prepare...and regardless, it's always good to be prepared. How do people reach you?

Greg: That's good advice. My number is 250-3754. Or go to my website at zanettifinancial.com.

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